

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1. (Currently Amended) A file managing apparatus for managing files recorded on a recording medium which has an index file recorded as a series of entries comprising-including blocks of extract information derived from and corresponding to said files to be managed;

wherein said index file includes a plurality of files into which data including the extract information is divided by attribute and the plurality of files includes a property file having data representative of attributes of said files to be managed;

wherein said file managing apparatus records a still picture file in such a manner that an entry including extract information about the still picture file is registered into said index file, and reorganizes said index file in such a manner that a plurality of still picture files recorded on said recording medium are grouped into a single movie file; and

wherein the entries corresponding to said plurality of still picture files grouped into said movie file are deleted from said index file by setting a valid-invalid information as invalid in the property file to indicate that the corresponding extract information is invalid, while an entry comprising-including extract information about said movie file is registered into said index file.

2. (Original) The file managing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said movie file is an external reference type file which offers the corresponding still pictures in reference to said plurality of still picture files recorded on said recording medium; and

wherein said file managing apparatus forms said movie file so that said movie file points to said plurality of still picture files.

3. (Original) The file managing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said movie file is a self-contained type file which has real data representative of picture data related to said plurality of still picture files and which offers the corresponding still pictures based on said real data;

wherein said file managing apparatus forms said movie file by successively acquiring said picture data from said plurality of still picture files; and

wherein, upon deleting from said index file the entries corresponding to said plurality of still picture files grouped into said movie file, said file managing apparatus also deletes said plurality of still picture files.

4. (Currently Amended) The file managing apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said extract information is organized into groups by attribute of said extract information so that entries of thumbnail images representative of said still picture files are formed in said index file;

wherein said file managing apparatus acquires data about said thumbnail images representative of said plurality of still picture files from said index file and associates the acquired data with said still picture files so as to form groups of real data comprisingincluding the data about said thumbnail images in said movie file; and

wherein said file managing apparatus deletes the entries of said thumbnail images representative of said still picture files recorded in said index file.

5. (Currently Amended) The file managing apparatus according to claim 3, wherein said extract information is organized into groups by attribute of said extract information so that entries of thumbnail images representative of said still picture files are formed in said index file;

wherein said file managing apparatus acquires data about said thumbnail images representative of said plurality of still picture files from said index file and associates the acquired data with the picture data so as to form groups of real data comprisingincluding a series of the data about said thumbnail images in said movie file; and

wherein said file managing apparatus deletes the entries of said thumbnail images representative of said still picture files recorded in said index file.

6. (Currently Amended) The file managing apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said extract information is organized into groups by attribute of said extract information so that entries in text of titles representative of said still picture files are formed in said index file;

wherein said file managing apparatus acquires data about said titles representative of said plurality of still picture files from said index file and associates the acquired data with said still

picture files so as to form groups of real data comprisingincluding the data about said titles in said movie file; and

wherein said file managing apparatus deletes the entries of said titles representative of said still picture files recorded in said index file.

7. (Currently Amended) The file managing apparatus according to claim 3, wherein said extract information is organized into groups by attribute of said extract information so that entries in text of titles representative of said still picture files are formed in said index file;

wherein said file managing apparatus acquires data about said titles representative of said plurality of still picture files from said index file and associates the acquired data with the picture data so as to form groups of real data comprisingincluding the data about said titles in said movie file; and

wherein said file managing apparatus deletes the entries of said titles representative of said still picture files recorded in said index file.

8. (Original) The file managing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said plurality of still picture files associated with the reorganization of said index file belong to a particular folder.

9. (Original) The file managing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the number of entries in said index file is determined and said index file is reorganized based on the determination result.

10. (Original) The file managing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the number of entries determined in said index file is presented to a user and said index file is reorganized in response to user instruction.

11. (Currently Amended) The file managing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein re-registration of said still picture files is carried out in such a manner that the entry comprisingincluding the extract information about said movie file is deleted from said index file

while the entries comprisingincluding the extract information about said plurality of still picture files are registered into said index file.

12. (Currently Amended) A file managing method for managing files recorded on a recording medium which has an index file recorded as a series of entries comprisingincluding blocks of extract information derived from and corresponding to said files to be managed, said file managing method comprisingincluding the steps of:

recording a still picture file in such a manner that an entry including extract information about the still picture file is registered into said index file,

wherein said index file includes a plurality of files into which data including the extract information is divided by attribute and the plurality of files includes a property file having data representative of attributes of said files to be managed;

reorganizing said index file in such a manner that a plurality of still picture files recorded on said recording medium are grouped into a single movie file; and

deleting the entries corresponding to said plurality of still picture files grouped into said movie file from said index file by setting a valid-invalid information as invalid in the property file to indicate that the corresponding extract information is invalid, while registering an entry comprisingincluding extract information about said movie file into said index file.

13. (Currently Amended) A file managing method program for causing a computer to execute a procedure for managing files recorded on a recording medium which has an index file recorded as a series of entries comprisingincluding blocks of extract information derived from and corresponding to said files, said procedure comprisingincluding the steps of:

recording a still picture file in such a manner that an entry including extract information about the still picture file is registered into said index file,

wherein said index file includes a plurality of files into which data including the extract information is divided by attribute and the plurality of files includes a property file having data representative of attributes of said files to be managed;

reorganizing said index file in such a manner that a plurality of still picture files recorded on said recording medium are grouped into a single movie file; and

deleting the entries corresponding to said plurality of still picture files grouped into said movie file from said index file by setting a valid-invalid information as invalid in the property file to indicate that the corresponding extract information is invalid, while registering an entry comprisingincluding extract information about said movie file into said index file.

14. (Currently Amended) A recording medium which recordshaving recorded thereon a file managing method program for causing a computer to execute a procedure for managing files recorded on a recording medium which has an index file recorded as a series of entries comprisingincluding blocks of extract information derived from and corresponding to said files, said procedure comprisingincluding the steps of:

recording a still picture file in such a manner that an entry including extract information about the still picture file is registered into said index file,

wherein said index file includes a plurality of files into which data including the extract information is divided by attribute and the plurality of files includes a property file having data representative of attributes of said files to be managed;

reorganizing said index file in such a manner that a plurality of still picture files recorded on said recording medium are grouped into a single movie file; and

deleting the entries corresponding to said plurality of still picture files grouped into said movie file from said index file by setting a valid-invalid information as invalid in the property file to indicate that the corresponding extract information is invalid, while registering an entry comprisingincluding extract information about said movie file into said index file.